

If you try to influence an election by running a smear piece on Senator John Kerry, I will do everything in my power as a citizen to ensure you do not retain your license. You are breaking the law. I, too, was in Southeast Asia as a civilian during the Vietnam conflict. When I arrived, I supported the U.S. war effort. After 2 years, I did not. I considered that our country had made a huge miscalculation that was costing lives unnecessarily.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.